(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Units in Orissa

128. SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more industries in Orissa; and

(b) if so, how many persons have been given employment in centrally sponsored units in Orissa so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the available information 0.75 lakh persons were given employment in the central public sector enterprises in Orissa.

Supplying Power to Public Sector Companies

129. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have appointed a Committee to look into the feasibility of supplying 15 per cent of power to the public Sector companies located in the vicinity of the power plants in the country;

(b) whether the Central Government have given appropriate directions to the State Governments to follow on the lines of the Central Government; and

(c) by when the proposed Committee will submit its report to government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The question of reserving a portion of the electricity generated at Central Power Stations for supply to Central Public Sector Undertakings, primarily in the core sector, has been referred for consideration to a Committee on which State Electricity Boards are represented. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Developing Non-conventional Energy Sources

130. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have called for a massive effort to develop non-conventional energy sources in the country as the cost of conventional energy is becoming exceedingly high;

(b) whether to promote the development of non-conventional energy sources, Central Government have taken any steps or given any directions to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what are the full details thereof and further steps which Government propose to take to effectively develop non-conventional energy sources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have taken up large scale programmes for extensive utilisation of non-conventional energy sources such as biogas, biomass, solar energy, wind energy, etc. throughout the country. These programmes have become very popular and have also stated giving benefits to the users particularly in the rural areas.

The Department have taken steps to intensify research and development, undertake demonstration projects and support extension activities in respect of matured technology through various forms of incentives and subsidy. The State Governments/ nodal agencies, public instituions and other non-governmental organisations are actively involved in these